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JADE T BUTAY
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 13, 2012

HB 2081
RELATING TO MOPEDS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation opposes HB 2081, because it will encourage an unsafe and potentially costly practice. Due to their light weight, small wheels and lack of power and occupant protection, mopeds have inherent safety problems that will further be exacerbated by allowing a passenger to ride a moped.

The objective in allowing mopeds on the road was to encourage people to use these fuel efficient vehicles as an alternative mode of transportation. Moped is an acronym for motorized pedalcycle. Early model mopeds had pedals and resembled bicycles, but they quickly evolved to the extent that today's mopeds resemble motor scooters more than bicycles. They also travel at a faster speed than the early model mopeds.

This raises many concerns as moped operators are more often injured when the mopeds they are operating are involved in a motor vehicle crash with a car or truck. Amending the law to allow passengers on mopeds would be placing the passenger to the risk of injury if the moped they are riding on is involved in a crash with another motor vehicle.

Additionally, although mopeds have become similar in design and size to motor scooters, mopeds are not required to have Personal Injury Protection (PIP) insurance. Presently, if a moped operator is involved in a motor vehicle crash with another motor vehicle, the insurance of the motor vehicle covers the medical costs for the injured moped operator. Amending the law to allow passengers on mopeds would in all likelihood be placing additional medical costs on the motor vehicle operator's insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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OUR REFERENCE KK-LC

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair
    and Members
Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Souki and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2081, Relating to Mopeds

I am Kurt Kendro, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.
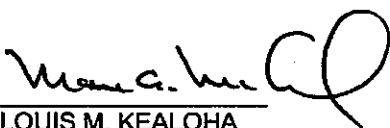
The HPD opposes the passage of House Bill No. 2081, Relating to Mopeds, which would allow a person operating a moped to carry a passenger if it was designed to carry both a driver and passenger.
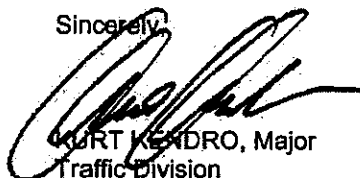
There are several areas of concern to the HPD. By definition, a moped must be less than two horsepower and this would not allow enough power to safely carry two people. Most mopeds might have a seat that is large enough to carry two people but lack foot pegs for the passenger. While the language attempts to define the term "designed to carry," it is still vague enough that it would create difficulty for law enforcement officers to enforce. In January 2012, there was a crash involving a moped that had a seat large enough for two people to sit astride with one leg on each side of the moped. When a mechanical problem occurred, because of the weight and the lack of power for a moped, a crash occurred, killing the passenger. The HPD urges that this bill be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

KURT KENDRO, Major
Traffic Division

APPROVED:

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Saturday, February 11, 2012 3:53 PM
To:	TRNtestimony
Cc:	ericbutler777@gmail.com
Subject:	Testimony for HB2081 on 2/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 2/13/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2081

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Eric Butler
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ericbutler777@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2012

Comments: